

congressional schedules keep us away from our families. Many of us have had to miss Little League games, school recitals and concerts. That is the hardest part of our job. I cannot imagine missing a year's worth of my children's lives, a year of birthdays, holidays, games, concerts and those precious daily moments.

Of all the hardships that Martin and Gracia have endured in the past 11½ months, the greatest must be their separation from their family and knowing how desperately their children miss them. I always cherish my time with my parents and my family, but this week I am especially aware of how lucky I am to have time.

I encourage the Bush administration and the Philippine government to continue their efforts, all their efforts, to free Martin and Gracia so the Burnham family can enjoy a family reunion.

As always, I ask you to join me in prayer for Martin and Gracia and their loved ones that this nightmare may soon be over.

NATIONAL SMALL BUSINESS WEEK

(Mr. PHELPS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PHELPS. Mr. Speaker, I am grateful for the opportunity to speak today on behalf of National Small Business Week. Small businesses play a crucial role in the economy of our Nation, and it is important that we take this week to recognize their efforts.

As a member of the Committee on Small Business and a former small business owner, I am aware of the everyday difficulties that many of our Nation's small businesses have to face. We must work together to ensure that their needs are met and not put behind the needs of corporate America.

With approximately 25 million small businesses in the United States, we need to focus on affordable health care for the small business employer and employee. We must ensure that pension plans will be provided to employees while protecting our system's Social Security. Last year many small businesses were left out of the President's tax cut. Let us make sure that that never happens again, and provide for fair tax breaks to small businesses who may need the extra capital to survive.

Many Americans dream of owning their own business, and we need to help that dream become a reality and stay a reality for years.

PROVIDING FOR DISPOSITION OF H.J. Res. 84, DISAPPROVING THE ACTION TAKEN BY THE PRESIDENT UNDER SECTION 203 OF THE TRADE ACT OF 1974 TRANSMITTED TO THE CONGRESS ON MARCH 5, 2002

Mr. REYNOLDS. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I

call up House Resolution 414 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 414

Resolved, That the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 84) disapproving the action taken by the President under section 203 of the Trade Act of 1974 transmitted to the Congress on March 5, 2002, is hereby laid on the table.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). The gentleman from New York (Mr. REYNOLDS) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. REYNOLDS. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

(Mr. REYNOLDS asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. REYNOLDS. Mr. Speaker, while I am waiting for some of my remarks, first, I would like to welcome our new colleague on the Committee on Rules, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN), who will be managing the rule for the minority.

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 414 is a unique rule providing for the disposition of House Joint Resolution 84, a resolution of disapproval. Under the rule, the House Joint Resolution 84 would be automatically tabled. House Joint Resolution 84 disapproves the action taken by President Bush to impose temporary tariffs on some types of steel products. Under the Trade Act, Congress has the authority to disapprove of such actions within 90 days. Such approval resolution is highly privileged, not amendable, and floor debate is limited to 20 hours.

To put it simply, a vote in favor of this rule will lay on the table the disapproval resolution and conclude further deliberations.

Responding to concerns within the steel industry, President Bush instructed the International Trade Commission on June 2001 to begin an investigation under section 201 of the U.S. Trade Law. This investigation would study the effects of steel imports on the U.S. steel industry. The ITC released their findings in October of 2001, making an affirmative determination of injury on the American steel industry caused by steel imports.

The ITC further relayed recommendations to the President for relief that would prevent or remedy such injuries.

On March 5 of this year, the President put in place trade remedies based on the ITC findings. President Bush announced trade remedies for all products on which the ITC had found substantial injuries except two specialty categories.

Under present law, the President, not the ITC, makes the final decision whether to provide relief to the U.S. industry, as well as to the type and amounts of relief.

Passing the disapproval resolution as written would not undo the remedies imposed by President Bush. Rather, it would merely put in place the tariff levels suggested by the International Trade Commission.

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While congressional disapproval is certainly allowed under this statute, this rule recognizes that the circumstances in this case simply do not warrant such action. Even the measure's sponsor noted in committee markup that the resolution was not the best solution.

Laying this resolution on the table does not hurt the steel industry. In fact, it will keep intact the President's remedy that the industry favors. The disapproval resolution could potentially be even more harmful to the industry, nor would the resolution not eliminate tariffs on steel imports. It merely replaces one set of tariffs with another.

Mr. Speaker, let me reiterate that a vote in support of this rule will table the disapproval resolution, keep intact the President's current enacted remedy, and conclude debate on this issue.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. REYNOLDS) for yielding me the customary 30 minutes, and I thank him for his kind words.

Mr. Speaker, I want to take just a moment to thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FROST), the ranking member, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GEPHARDT), and the rest of my colleagues for my appointment to the Rules Committee.

I am honored to take the seat held for over 25 years by my friend and mentor, Joe Moakley; and before him the seat was held by the late Speaker, Tip O'Neill. I feel so privileged to be part of that legacy, and I will try to do everything possible to live up to their examples of hard work, collegiality and dedication to this House.

Mr. Speaker, this is the first rule that I have managed on the floor; and if I did not know better, I would think that my friends on the other side of the aisle were trying to make it as difficult as possible because this rule, Mr. Speaker, is a complex and convoluted contrivance designed to protect some Members from an unambiguous vote on an issue of vital importance to America's steel industry and its workers.

This rule is self-executing, which means that a vote in favor of the rule will table the resolution, thereby killing it without a clear up or down vote. While I strongly oppose the resolution proposed by the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. JEFFERSON), I see no reason why the committee does not simply allow this body to vote on it.

This is an issue with real consequences for hard-working Americans and their families. Quite simply, Mr.